

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 OPR-02 PA-02 USIA-15 /032 W

----- 068061

R 251615Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3978

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMCONSUL BELIZE

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 2600

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, NU, GT, ES, HO, CS

SUBJECT:AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) PRESS CONFERENCE IN SAN JOSE

REF: (A) MANAGUA 2346 (NOTAL), (B) GUATEMALA 3757

1. MAY 17 AI PRESS CONFERENCE HAS RECEIVED LITTLE PUBLICITY IN SAN JOSE PRESS. PRO-GOVERNMENT EXCELSIOR PUBLISHED ARTICLE MAY 18; INDEPENDENT LA NACION CARRIED STORY MAY 22. BOTH ARTICLES APPEARED ON INSIDE PAGES.

2. CONCERNING NICARAGUA: EXCELSIOR ARTICLE INCLUDED ONLY TWO PARAGRAPHS:

BEGIN TEXT: MADLENER Y MCCLINTOCK SENALARON QUE EN NICARAGUA, DONE SE PIDIO ENTREVISTAS CON VARIOS PRESOS POLITICOS "Y NI SIQUIERA SE NOS RESPONDIO A LA PETICION", SE PRESENTA UNA SITUACION DE STADO DE SITIO "QUE NO CONVENCE, PUES ESTE ESTADO SOLO SE DECRETA POR PERTUBACIONES GRAVES DEL SECTOR PUBLICO Y NO POR MERAS PRECAUCIONES".

"ADEMAS DIJERON LOS MPKOLOS J LA MISION DE INVESTIGATION JURIDICA Y DE DEREIXOS HUMANOS QUE VISITO EL ISTMO CENTRO-AMERICANO, LAS CORTES MILITARES NICARAGUENSES NO OFRECEN SUFICIENTES GARANTIAS A LOS ACUSADOS POLITICOS, Y LO QUE SI  
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PUDIMOS OBSERVAR CLARAMENTE ES UNA CONDENABLE CE HJGF A LA PRENSA POR PARTE DEL GOBIERNO DE NICARAGUA".

END TEXT.

3. LA NACION ARTICLE REPORTED AI REPRESENTATIVES' CHARGES OF LACK OF COOPERATION FROM THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT. FOUR GROUPS OF PROBLEMS WERE MENTIONED:

BEGIN TEXT:

1. NO FUNCIONA EL RECURSO DE HABEAS CORPUS.
2. DENUNCIAS DE TORTURAS Y DETENCIONES ARBITRARIAS.
3. VEJACION A CAMPESINOS EN LAZ ZONAS DONE OPERA EL FRENTE SANDINISTA.
4. ES ESTADO DE SITIO.

END TEXT.

IN ADDITION, THE ARTICLE QUOTED REMARKS BY AI REPS ON THE SPECIFIC CASES XMZLNA BIENVENIDA (COSTA RICAN) AND RENE

MUNOZ, BOTH IN NICARAGUAN JAILS.

4. CONCERNING GUATEMALA: AI DELEGATION REPORTED TO HAVE SAID IN BOTH ARTICLES THAT FROM A HUMAN RIGHTS POINT OF VIEW THE SITUATION WAS MOST DELICATE IN GUATEMALA, WHERE THERE EXISTS A TRUE ATMOSPHERE OF TERROR AND INSECURITY. THE EXCELSIOR ARTICLE ALSO STATED:

BEING TEXT: "EL BOGIERNO GUATEMALTECO, ASEGURO EL DR. MADLENER, NO ESTA IN LA ACTQ LIDAD EN CONDICIONES DE CONTROLAR ESOS ESTADOS, Y A PESAR DE QUE EL PRESIDENTE KJELL LAUGERUD PARECE SER UN HOMBRE DE ACCION, POR AHORA NO SE VISLUMBRA SOLUCION A LOS PROBLEMAS DE VIOLACION A LOST DERECHOS HUMANOS QUE SE PRESENTAN EN GUATEMALA".

"EL PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVO QUE NOS HA MOTIVADO A REALIZAR ESTA INVESTIGACION, APUNTO EL PENALISTA ALEMAN, ES LA BUSQUEDA DE EXPLICACIONES CONVINCENTES A LOST FRECUENTES ASESEINATOS, UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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DESPARICIONES, TORTURAS Y VEJACIONES ALOS CAMPESINOS, QUE SE PRESENTAN EN ALGUNOS DE LOS PAISES DE CENTRO AMERICA". END TEXT.

5. ONLY LA NACION QUOTED SPECIFIC REMARKS MADE BY THE DELEGATION RE THE SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS. STATEMENTS WERE FACTUAL AND DID NOT INCLUDE ANY CHARGES.

6. WILL INFORM ADDRESSEES SHOULD OTHER STATEMENTS MADE BY REPS APPEAR IN LOCAL PRESS. COPY OF EXCELSIOR ARTICLE POUCHED

TO MANAGUA AND GUATEMALA 5/21. COPY OF LA NACION ARTICLE POUCHED  
5/24, AND WILL ALSO BE SENT TO SAN SALVADOR AND  
TEGUCIGALPA. EMBASSY ATTEMPTING TO SECURE COMPLETE TRANSCRIPTS  
OF CONFERENCE REMARKS AND WILL POUCH COPIES TO ADDRESSES IF  
THEY ARE STILL AVAILABLE. TODMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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